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Two New *Larhodius* (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae, Dichotomini) from the Malay Peninsula

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Abstract Two new species of the scarabaeid genus *Larhodius* (tribe Dichotomini), *L. maruyamai* sp. nov. and *L. hashimi* sp. nov. are described from the Malay Peninsula. *Larhodius* is herewith raised to the generic rank.

Two species of very small scarabaeid beetles with very strange facies were collected by Munetoshi MARUYAMA, a young entomologist specialized in mymecophilous beetles, by FIT (flight interception trap) in the Malay Peninsula. He passed them to us for detailed study. At the first glance, it was noticed that they belong to the genus *Haroldius* in a broad sense, though very peculiar in the body outline. Because of such characteristics as the rounded clypeus, strangely shaped legs, and so on, they were considered to belong to the subgenus *Larhodius* BALTHASAR, 1963, which was known from only a single species.

We have examined the type species and the present material offered to us by MARUYAMA, and have concluded that the latter contains two new species. In addition we have come to the conclusion that the subgenus *Larhodius* should be raised to the generic rank.

Before going further into details, we thank Dr. Munetoshi MARUYAMA, the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, for giving us the opportunity to examine very interesting beetles. We also thank Dr. Makoto KIUCHI, Tsukuba City, for taking photographs inserted in this paper. Finally, we appreciate Dr. Shun-Ichi UÉNO, Emeritus Curator of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, for assisting our study in various ways.

Genus ***Larhodius*** BALTHASAR

Haroldius subgen. *Larhodius* BALTHASAR, 1963, Mon. Scarab. Aphod. Palaearkt. Orient. Reg., **1**: 246. Type species: *Haroldius calcaratus* JANSSENS, 1934 (=*Larhodius calcaratus* comb. nov.).

According to BALTHASAR (1963), the subgenus *Larhodius* is characterized by the following points: 1) clypeus not notched at the centre but widely, continuously rounded, with the anterior part weakly reflexed, 2) elytral striae punctate, intervals not

punctate and glabrous, 3) protibiae not bidentate but quadridentate, and meso- and metatibiae each with a long apical spur, which is almost as long as the length of respective tarsi, 4) 1st meso- and metatarsomeres each bearing a spur almost of the same length as the total length of each segment, 5) mesosternum nearly straightly defined from metasternum.

We have confirmed the following characters common to the members of this group: apical margin of head continuously rounded, apical spurs of meso- and metatibiae long, and meso- and metasternal borders nearly straight, intervals minutely punctate and protibia with three to four outer teeth.

In *Haroldius*, the body is hemispherical, the anterior margin of the head widely incised at the middle, with each side of the incision produced, the protibia with the outer margin bidentate, the meso- and metatibiae without long terminal spurs, and the borders of meso- and metasterna strongly curved.

Larhodius can be easily distinguishable from *Haroldius* by the characteristics noticed above. We are therefore going to raise *Larhodius* to the generic rank for reasons of possessing such peculiar characteristics.

Larhodius maruyamai sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Body blackish brown, with outer margins darker in colour, hairs on antennal clubs pale yellow, hairs on legs orange; rectangularly oval and strongly convex dorsad; almost glabrous.

Head broad, reflexed along anterior margin, which is widely, continuously rounded and fringed with short setae; clypeus minutely punctate, not clearly defined from genae and frons; genae (ocular lobes) finely punctate, subrectangular at lateral corners, with post-lateral margins (opposite to antero-lateral margins of pronotum) feebly sinuate; frons weakly convex, moderately punctate, the punctures minute in anterior part, becoming larger posteriad, somewhat ocellated in posterior part. Eyes rather crescent-shaped in dorsal view.

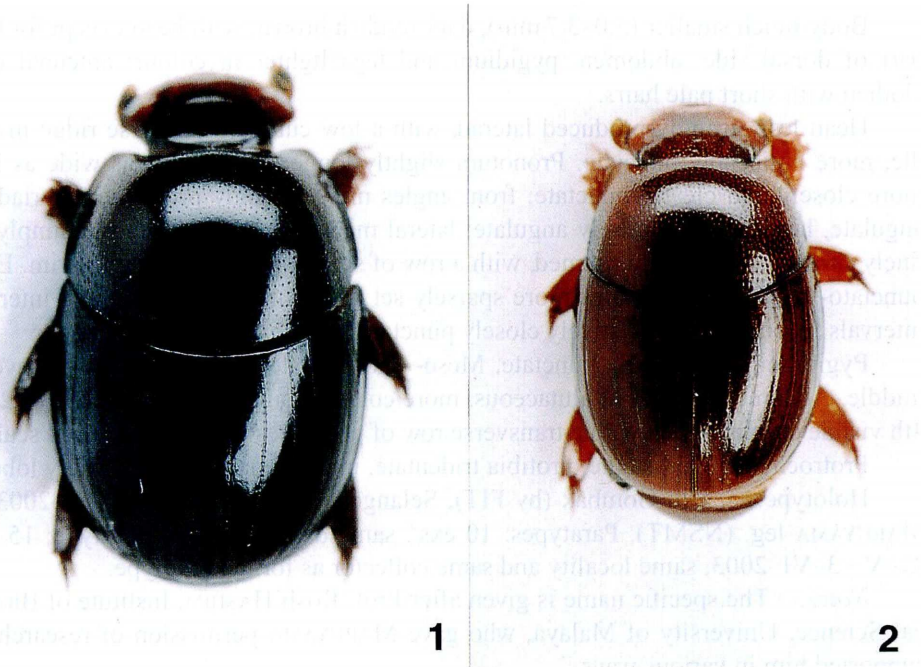
Pronotum somewhat trapezoidal, 1.33 times as wide as long, gently narrowed anteriad; apex widely emarginate, very slightly produced in middle; sides rather steeply declined to lateral margins, which are distinctly bordered throughout, slightly explanate laterad in middle; front angle subrectangular with a rounded corner, hind angle obtuse though the corner is rounded; base very widely rounded, not rimmed, with a row of punctures along margin in lateral parts; disc strongly raised in major postero-central part, wholly covered with microscopic punctures, also covered with larger punctures, which are small in basal and central parts, become larger in anterior and lateral parts, and become ovate and ocellated in lateral parts; antero-interior parts of prothorax hollowed beneath.

Elytra somewhat semicircular in dorsal view; base widely, roundly emarginate in dorsal view; disc with seven striae, which are superficial but evenly impressed, the

punctures in the striae notching intervals; intervals almost flat, minutely punctate; lateral margins feebly explanate and finely rimmed.

Pygidium gently convex, scattered with microscopic punctures, with apical margin bordered by a rim, which is gently widened in medial part. Mesosternum short, rather closely, shallowly punctate, nearly straightly defined from metasternum by a fine groove; metasternum broad, smooth but sparsely microscopically punctate in medial part, relatively closely and coarsely punctate in lateral parts; abdomen rather short, 3rd to 5th visible segments each with a transverse row of punctures, each bearing an adpressed seta.

Legs flattened and wide; protrochanter sharply pointed at the antero-external corner; protibia tridentate with the extremity bearing a bold spur directed antero-exteriad, interior margin gently lobed near base; protarsus short and narrow; mesotibia gently narrowed apicad, with two apical spurs at the extremity, the upper one of which is longer and bolder than the lower, slightly shorter than the total length of mesotarsomeres, and also with short and bold spines in lateral parts of the extremity; mesotarsus with 1st to 3rd segments bearing setae on outer and inner sides of each apex, the setae a little longer than the length of the next tarsomere; 4th mesotarsomere rather small; ventral surfaces of meso- and metatibiae each with a ramp creased obliquely posteriad, though uneven in proximal part; metatibia gently narrowed apicad, with a



Figs. 1–2. Habitus of *Larhodius* spp. —— 1, *L. maruyamai* sp. nov., holotype, ♂; 2, *L. hashimi* sp. nov., holotype, ♂.

bold apical spur at the extremity, which is almost as long as the four metatarsomeres combined, and also with short and bold spines in lateral parts of the extremity; metatarsus with apical parts of 1st to 3rd segments bearing setae on each side; claws small.

Body length: 5.3–5.4 mm.

Holotype: ♂, Ulu Gombak (by FIT), Selangor, Malaysia, 27–II~5–III–2003, M. MARUYAMA leg. (NSMT). Paratype: 1 ex., same data as for the holotype; 2 exs., 21–V~3–VI–2003, the same locality and collector as for the holotype.

Notes. This new species resembles *Larhodius calcaratus* (JANSSENS, 1934), originally described from Barway, India, but can be distinguished from the latter by much larger size (2.5 mm in *L. calcaratus*) and slightly elongate body, with the pronotum more densely punctate, the elytral striae more densely punctate, the protibiae bearing three outer teeth (four teeth in *L. calcaratus*), and the first to third segments of the meso- and metatarsi with setae in the lateral parts of each apex.

Larhodius hashimi sp. nov.

(Fig. 2)

This new species somewhat resembles the preceding, but can be distinguished from the latter by the following characteristics:

Body much smaller (3.0–3.7 mm), dark reddish brown, with head except for basal part of dorsal side, abdomen, pygidium and legs lighter in colour; antennal clubs clothed with short pale hairs.

Head less strongly produced laterad, with a low curved, transverse ridge in middle, more noticeably punctate. Pronotum slightly longer, 1.35 times as wide as long, more closely and clearly punctate; front angles more strongly produced anteriad and angulate, hind angles obtusely angulate; lateral margins not explanate but simply and finely rimmed; base finely rimmed, with a row of small punctures along the rim. Elytra punctato-striate, the punctures more sparsely set and more weakly notching intervals; intervals feebly convex, relatively closely punctate, the punctures slightly larger.

Pygidium more clearly punctate. Meso- and metasterna longitudinally convex in middle. Abdomen somewhat alutaceous, more coarsely punctate, lateral parts of 2rd to 4th visible sternites each with a transverse row of punctures bearing adpressed scales.

Protrochanters less acute; protibia tridentate, interior margin less strongly lobed.

Holotype: ♂, Ulu Gombak (by FIT), Selangor, Malaysia, 27–II~5–III–2003, M. MARUYAMA leg. (NSMT). Paratypes: 10 exs., same data as for the holotype; 15 exs., 21–V~3–VI–2003, same locality and same collector as for the holotype.

Notes. The specific name is given after Prof. Rosli HASHIM, Institute of Biological Science, University of Malaya, who gave MARUYAMA permission of research and supported him in various ways.

要　約

益本仁雄・宇都宮由佳：マレー半島産*Larhodius*属(Dichotomini)の2新種．—— 国立科学博物館の丸山宗利博士が，マレー半島でFITによって採集した小型で半球形のコガネムシを検討したところ，コガネムシ科Dichotomini族の*Haroldius*属*Larhodius*亜属に属する新種であることがわかった．また，*Larhodius*は，*Haroldius*と比較して顕著な特徴をもっているため，属に昇格させるべきであるという結論になった．新種名は，採集者，および採集者に協力を惜しまなかったマラヤ大学のRosli HASHIM教授にちなんで，*Larhodius maruyamai* sp. nov.および*L. hashimi* sp. nov.と命名した．

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Tenebrionid Beetles (Coleoptera) from the Palau Islands Collected by Keiichi TAKAHASHI (1)

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Keiichi TAKAHASHI, one of my friends in entomology, has been energetically collecting insects in the Palau Islands for these two years. He has been giving me opportunities of studying tenebrionid beetles from these islands.

KULZER (1957) recorded thirty-five tenebrionid species from the Palau Islands, which are mostly seaside inhabitants. I was therefore surprised to find such sylvicolous species in TAKAHASHI's material as *Amarygmus* and a *Strongylium*, particularly the latter is known for the first time from the Palau Islands.

As the first part of this study, I am going to enumerate previously described species.

Diphyrrhynchus carolinensis BLAIR, 1940: Sonsorol Is.